

International Agribusiness Center

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USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports

Taiwan To Ease Restrictions on US Beef Imports – [link](#)

On August 28, 2020, Taiwan announced that, beginning January 1, 2021, it will no longer restrict imports of U.S. beef to cattle of less than 30 months of age. This report contains an unofficial English translation of TFDA's draft regulation, as well as Taiwan's notification of the measure to the WTO SPS Committee.

USMEF creates a new event experience in Mexico – [link](#)

U.S. Meat Export Federation held a movie night at Mexico City drive-in theater on August 22, 2020. Mexico represents an important market for U.S. Meat. The event showcased U.S. pork with the collaboration of three rising Mexican chefs that created innovative dishes inspired by the 1970s menus available at the drive-in theaters.

Published Final Standards in Specified Meat Products in Indian Gazette – [link](#)

The Government of India's Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notified the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2020 in the Official Gazette of India. The amendment regulations relate to standards for a range of meat products such as canned/retort packaged meat products; comminuted/restructured meat products; cured/pickled meat and/or smoked meat products; dried/dehydrated meat products; cooked/semi-cooked meat products; fermented meat products; marinated meat products, and fresh/chilled/frozen rabbit meat. The implementation date is July 1, 2021.

Organic Foods Regulation Amendments Proposed by Government of India - [link](#)

The Government of India's (GOI) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has proposed amendments in the Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulation, 2017, to update specific provisions on organic food labeling and certification. The draft regulation invites comments from World Trade Organization (WTO) member countries, and the comment period expires 60 days after the notification was published on the WTO website (www.wto.org).

Canada Further Extends Labeling and Packaging Flexibility – [link](#)

On September 4, 2020 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced temporary flexibility in enforcing some Canadian labeling and packaging regulations for pre-packaged meat products. CFIA announced this temporary flexibility, in response to industry challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, will now be extended to December 31, 2020 for both foodservice packaged products and prepackaged meat products. Label requirements associated with food safety are mandatory and businesses must continue to ensure that traceability documentation is maintained.



Food Processing Magazine

Pandemic Drives Egg Carton Demand – [link](#)

Demand for retail egg cartons is forecast to increase 3.6% a year to 2024, helped along by the pandemic, according to a new report. The Freedonia Group report predicts that the market for egg cartons will reach 4.7 billion units, worth \$612 million, over the next four years. The pandemic is a major contributing factor, as consumers boosted their in-home consumption of eggs, for both direct consumption and baking

OSHA Fines JBS Over COVID Outbreak – [link](#)

JBS has become the second meatpacker to receive a fine from the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) related to the pandemic. OSHA announced Sept. 11 that it is seeking a fine of \$15,615, the maximum allowable, against JBS over alleged violations at its beef processing plant in Greeley, Colo. JBS closed that plant for about 10 days in April. Six workers at that plant reportedly died of COVID-19, out of a total of 14 deaths of JBS workers across America. OSHA's action comes in the wake of a \$13,494 fine of Smithfield Foods in connection with a COVID-19 outbreak at its pork plant in Sioux Falls, S.D

Specialty Foods Magazine

Pandemic Disrupts Specialty Coffee – [link](#)

Consumption shifts to home-brewing as cafes revamp operations. With millions of consumers working from home for much of 2020, coffee consumption has shifted away from cafes and restaurants toward people's kitchens and dining rooms. The shift in consumption patterns has forced consumers to take a fresh look at the way they buy coffee, as well as the way they make their coffee at home.

Food Industries Viewed Most Positively by Consumers - [link](#)

Farming and agriculture, the grocery industry, and the restaurant industry are viewed the most positively among U.S. consumers, according to new research from Gallup. Farming and agriculture had already been among the top rated industries prior to 2020, but this year it moved to the number one spot with a 69 percent positive rating, an 11 point percentage increase.

China Weekly Skinny newsletter - September 15, 2020

Nongfu Spring introduces first plant-based yoghurt

Zhong Shanshan is the founder and majority-owner of Hangzhou-based Nongfu Spring, China's largest bottled water producer and a top-3 producer of bottled tea and juice. Although there are thousands of bottled water brands in China, only a small handful of those have national coverage - and as with many categories in China - consumers are more likely to trust the biggest brands for safety. Yet, in 2011, the toxic chemical phenol leaked into the Xin'an River in Zhejiang in what is considered one of the worst water pollution disasters in China over the last decade. Nongfu Spring's unique selling proposition is that its water is 'natural' as opposed to filtered tap water, yet that natural source happened to be the Xin'an River. Nevertheless, Nongfu Spring bottles continued to be sold everywhere.

Nongfu has delivered on basic China trends that other FMCG brands have missed. Nongfu was also one of the early adopters of plant-based alternatives, launching [China's first mainstream plant-based yoghurt in March last year](#).

Disclaimer: This list is by no means complete, for more information please refer to the links above.